

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 MC-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 CIEP-02 /148 W

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R 111219Z JULY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

USDAO SAIGON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, MILI, MCAF, VS, CB

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SALES OF GVN MILITARY SUPPLIES TO COMMUNIST
TROOPS

REF: STATE 144761; STATE 144762

1. KIRK ALLEGES THAT LARGE-SCALE SALE OF ARMS, AMMO AND OTHER
SUPPLIES BY GVN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO COMMUNISTS IS A DAILY
OCCURRENCE AT THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. THIS IS NOT TRUE. A
CLOSE CHECK OF ALL SOURCES INDICATES THAT THE SALE OF GVN
MILITARY SUPPLIES TO COMMUNIST TROOPS IN CAMBODIA BY RVNAF
PERSONNEL IS NOT GOING ON AT PRESENT. TAY NINH PROVINCE HAS
HISTORICALLY BEEN ONE OF THE MAJOR POINTS FOR CROSS-BORDER
SMUGGLING IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. THE BULK OF SUCH TRADE WAS IN
CIVILIAN COMMODITIES, ESPECIALLY IN FOODSTUFFS; HOWEVER, THERE
WERE RUMORS (ONE CASE IS STILL PENDING BEFORE THE MILITARY
COURT) OF INDIVIDUALS TRADING IN AMMUNITION. THERE IS NOTHING
TO SUBSTANTIATE ANYTHING NEAR THE VOLUME SUGGESTED BY THE KIRK
ARTICLE, EVEN IN THE PAST.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF SMUGGLING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE GVN A YEAR AGO BEGAN A GENERAL TIGHTENING OF CONTROLS AND A CRACK-DOWN ON THE OFFICIALS-- BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY--WHO CONNIVED IN THIS TRADE. THE RESULT IN TAY NINH PROVINCE WAS THE REMOVAL OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND SEVERAL DISTRICT OFFICIALS IN NOVEMBER 1973.

3. THE CURRENT PROVINCE CHIEF HAS ENERGETICALLY PURSUED THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL CROSS-BORDER TRADE IN COOPERATION WITH CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS ALONG THE BORDER. THE COMMANDER OF THE CAMBODIAN BORDER GUARDS HAS DESTROYED THE COMMUNIST MARKET AT BAVET AND ALL EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT ANY PREVIOUS ILLEGAL TRADE IN BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY COMMODITIES HAS COME TO A HALT.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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